

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with 1 being the independent claim.

The amendment to the specification at page 5, line 20 is made to correct an obvious error in the Japanese specification which is apparent when the paragraph is read in light of the whole context of the specification.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert A. Schwartzman, Ph.D.  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 50,211

Date: June 29, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
280625.1